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## William C. Nelson to J. H. Nelson (30 December 1864)

William Cowper Nelson

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Petersburg, Va, Dec, 30<sup>th</sup>, 1864

My Dear Father;

I take advantage of an opportunity which offers of sending a letter direct, to write you a few lines, assuring you of my continued good health and prosperity; by the blessing of a merciful Providence, the beginning of the new year finds me still in the enjoyment of life and its attendant joys, while so many of my comrades, who commenced the past year with me, so full of hopes and high aspirations, now "sleep the sleep that knows no waking," they dream of battle fields no more, days off toil and nights of waking." their pilgrimage is o'er, Oh! may they all have found a resting place, in that house, not made with hands, eternal in the heavens, It is a sad thought, to call to mind all the brave, the noble and the good, who have fallen in this cruel, unrighteous war, God grant, that an end soon may be put to the strife, But it seems to me almost interminable,



It is pretty certain that congress will pass the "Consolidation Act," that is consolidate several Regiments into one, as our entire Brigade of 4 Regiments only numbers 640 guns, it will certainly be consolidated, and I may be thrown out of office. It is probable that all supernumary officers will be allowed to resign and join such commands as they may prefer, I would rather serve in Virginia as an officer, but as a private I would rather be in the cavalry nearer home, I understand that there is a company of Scouts, under the command of <sup>the</sup> Capt Fort or Ford, now operating in Marshall County, some of my friends think of joining that. If you can give me any information about the command, and the basis of its organization, whether permanent or not, you will much oblige me. If it is possible for me to retain my commission I will certainly do so, for I have tried the ranks and know what it is, but I shall certainly do my duty, and serve my country, whether I remain an officer or not.



I was unable to obtain Tom a place in the Virginia Mil. Inst., as all the vacancies had been filled before my application was received. There are several Mil. Schools, in N. Carolina, one the Bingham is said to be very good. I send you the advertisement in the "Enquirer". If you wish to send him there and will let me know, I will make application. Gold three days ago was worth 42, to-day the brokers ask 50, and are paying 46, it is going up every day, and many think will reach 100, before a month is past. Congress, (one house) has passed a currency act providing for the redemption of the existing Treasury notes, by the title tax on cotton, corn and wheat after the war, taking one ninth of these products as a tax in kind, and rating their value as follows cotton 50 cts per pound, wheat 50 cts per bush and corn 20 cts, but I am afraid it will not have much effect.

Everything is enormously high here, sugar 15,00 per pound, coffee 25, butter 15, lard 10, Flour \$400,00 per barrel, etc. There is a merchant here, with whom you could probably make an arrangement which would result profitably.



to both, You might buy sugar down  
South and ship it here to him, and  
he buy Tobacco here for you, there  
might be other articles which are cheap  
here than there and vice versa,  
Let me know about this, and the arrange-  
ment can be perfected through me, the  
merchants' name is Peebles, he is an old  
gentleman and perfectly reliable,  
I have had me a splendid pair of boots  
made, bought the calf skins & had them made  
to order, I need no clothing now, except  
some blue pants & vest, I wrote to Mother  
to try to get the cloth out from M.  
Mr. Hancock will probably go home this  
winter, he will bring anything you  
wish to send, It will be almost  
impossible for me to get off this winter  
and I shall make no applications,  
I have just seen Mr. Peebles, he says that sugar  
can be sold here by wholesale for \$14 per pound,  
he can buy good Tobacco here for 4,00 per pound, the  
best brands 6,50, common ones 2,50, he says he  
will enter into the arrangement, and it would  
be better for you to buy a cargo of sugar and  
bring it out yourself, Transportation is so un-  
certain, Let me hear from you soon  
Your affectionate son Will;